

**Statement of**  
**Jay Moyer**  
**Special Counsel**  
**National Football League**  
**before the**  
**Committee To Study Sports Gaming in Delaware**  
**Established by House Resolution No. 63**  
**December 18, 2002**

Mr. Chairman and members of the Committee . My name is Jay Moyer. I am special counsel to the National Football League . For many years I was the Executive Vice-President and General Counsel of the League, during which time I was heavily involved in issues relating to gambling on professional sports. I appear before you today to express the NFL 's strong opposition to state-sponsored sports gambling in Delaware

The League opposed calls for sports lotteries and other legalize sports gambling in the states in the late 1980s and early 1990s, when states faced budgetary pressures similar to those they face today . I personally testified against sports gambling proposals in a number of those states . The League also strongly supported the passage of the Professional and Amateur Sports Protection Act of 1992, known as PASPA. This federal legislation halted the spread of sports gambling, by prohibiting states from enacting new legislation legalizing sports betting . The League has also worked to bring about the passage of Federal legislation prohibiting Internet gambling, to provide additional tools for attacking sports gambling.

The NFL's policy on this issue has been consistent for decades . Simply put, gambling and sports do not mix. Sports gambling threatens the integrity of our games and all the values our games represent -- especially to young people.

For this reason, the NFL has established strict policies relating to gambling in general and sports betting in particular. The League prohibits NFL club owners, coaches, players, and anyone else connected with the NFL from gambling on NFL games or associating in any way with persons involved in gambling. Anyone who does so faces severe disciplinary action by the Commissioner including lifetime suspension. We have posted our anti-gambling rules in every stadium locker room and have shared those rules with every player and every other individual associated with the NFL. The League has also sought to limit references to sports betting or gambling that in any way are connected to our games. For example, we have informed the major television networks that we regard sports gambling commercials and the dissemination of wagering information as inappropriate and unacceptable during football game telecasts. NFL teams may not accept advertising from gambling establishments, and our broadcast partners may not do so on NFL programming.

The harms of sports gambling are well documented. I would like to read briefly from a joint statement of Major League Baseball, the National Basketball Association, the National Football League, and the National Hockey Association opposing state-sponsored sports gambling in Delaware. [Excerpt from Joint Statement.] I ask that this joint statement be made part of the record of these proceedings.

While the harms of sports gambling, including legalized sports gambling, are well documented, the benefits are "illusory." According to the Delaware Business Review, Oregon lottery officials report that the profits from Oregon's sports lottery have averaged only \$2.3 million a year, and that's in a state where the sports lottery is not limited to a handful of venues, but can be played in retail outlets throughout the state. Oregon's population -- 3.4 million people, according to the 2000 census -- is nearly five times the population of Delaware.

(783,600). Even with some commuter traffic from neighboring states, and even with promotional efforts and enticements at levels never before attempted by any state, it seems unlikely that Delaware could approach Oregon's modest levels of sports gambling revenue

However lucrative it might prove, at the end of the day the issue is the impact of state-sponsored sports gambling on the games, our athletes, and our children. As Bill Bradley told Congress in urging it to prohibit the spread of legalized sports gambling

Based on what I know about the dangers of sports betting, I am not prepared to risk the values that sports instill in youth just to add a few more dollars to state coffers . . . State-sanctioned sports betting conveys the message that sports are more about money than personal achievement and sportsmanship. In these days of scandal and disillusionment, it is important that our youngsters not receive this message . . . sports betting threatens the integrity of and public confidence in professional and amateur team sports, converting sports from wholesome entertainment into a vehicle for gambling. [S]ports gambling raises people's, suspicions about point-shaving and game-fixing. . . . All of this puts undue pressure on players, coaches, and officials.

Bill Bradley was right. Delaware should not convert a phenomenon that has been limited to two western states into an eastern phenomenon. It should not institute sports lottery games.

Thank you